

## Book Reviews

### **Stents in Endovascular Surgery. Basic Concepts and Techniques**

F. J. Criado, Ed. Futura, 1996. 128 pages, price \$49.

This book is written in clear text by a vascular surgeon and reflects his longstanding personal experience with endovascular techniques. It is divided into 16 chapters with the following main sections, basic equipment devices, basic techniques/principles, indications/stent placements, complications/troubleshooting, reflections about the future. The 70 illustrations are of high quality and occupy more space than the text. Some of the author's opinions on techniques and indications are unlikely to be universally accepted. For example, some will disagree that transfixion arterial puncture of the anterior and posterior wall is the most satisfactory technique for gaining vascular access. Neither is there general agreement on his preference for primary stenting instead of balloon dilatation of short iliac and aortic occlusions. Furthermore, his recommendation that only 10 peripheral angioplasties and theoretical knowledge of thrombolysis without practical experience, is sufficient for credentialing endovascular therapists, invites controversy. The duration of a training programme will depend on a person's experience, skill and willingness to learn.

The chapters concerning the principles of balloon angioplasty, complications and troubleshooting are well described and illustrated, giving even inexperienced readers an insight in the complexity of the involved problems.

**J. J. Jorgensen**

*Surgical Department, Aker Hospital  
University of Oslo*

### **Caring for the Vascular Patient**

L. M. Herbert, Ed. Churchill Livingstone, 274 pages, price £25.50.

*Caring for the Vascular Patient* is not an easy subject to broach as it involves a combination of patient physi-

ology and psychology that is compounded by individual variability. This book brings together the essentials to promote a modern understanding of vascular patients' needs. The contents are divided into sections that follow a natural progression from background knowledge on anatomy and physiology, preventative measures such as health promotion, and a detailed section on assessment of the vascular patient. Implementation of nursing management examines the care required for patients with various vascular disorders. The final section looks at common treatments used in vascular surgery.

Chapter 1 is a straightforward outline of the anatomy and physiology of the vascular system which can be used as a learning resource for the pre-registered nurse or as a revision source for the experienced practitioner. The clear style of writing makes the text accessible and is supported by the use of labelled colour illustrations and flow charts. Aetiology and pathology is equally detailed, well presented. The colour photographs show different types of ulcer which effectively helps the nurse to visualise the pathology. This is reinforced by the use of a table that compares and contrasts their characteristics. Consecutive chapters deal expertly and concisely with topics such as health promotion and pain management. Both are important considerations in the conservative management of the vascular patient and are well placed to emphasise this in the early section of the book.

The assessment of the vascular patient is a suitably detailed section that provides valuable information on non-invasive tests. However, the need for a preoperative nutritional assessment needs to be addressed in more detail. As highlighted in a previous chapter, malnutrition can affect the patient's postoperative recovery, contributing to the likelihood of infections and increasing the length of hospital stay. It is important to identify any problems as early as possible. There follows an interesting and informative chapter on the care of the patient with leg ulcers. Unfortunately the author incorrectly states that "intermittent pneumatic compression (IPC) is virtually the only effective treatment for chronic lymphoedema." However, IPC is not effective on its

own although it can effectively be used as part of a programme of treatment for lymphoedema as carried out by a trained lymphoedema specialist. I was surprised that the book neglected to include a short section on lymphoedema focusing on the definition, causes, effects and treatment. Nurses on vascular wards will come across patients with primary and secondary lymphoedema sometimes alongside their vascular disease. It is important for them to be aware of the condition and its management. The sections on caring for patients undergoing surgical procedures follow similar structures. They provide information on pathology and detailed pre- and postoperative care which clearly addresses pain and wound management. They are visually stimulating and key words are continually highlighted in italics. There is excellent use of boxes to summarise information at the side of the text, all of which adds to the ease of which the book can be read. The end of each chapter provides a summary in the form of a clinical check list to be used as a guideline for patient care.

Each chapter is well referenced and provides a section on further reading which enables the book to be used as a valuable learning resource. The author targets a wide range of nurses such as those working on vascular surgical wards, day surgery units, community nurses, aiming to bridge the gap between primary and secondary sectors thus providing a "seamless service". It would also be of value to pre-registered nurses and newly qualified nurses. *Caring for the Vascular Patient* fulfils its aims by providing information which is based on current research. This encourages nurses to apply this knowledge to clinical practice and so promotes higher standards of care.

**M. Durkin**  
Leeds, U.K.

### Long-term Results of Arterial Interventions

A. Brauchereau, M. Jacobs, Eds. Futura Publishing Co, 328 pages, price \$95

This book is a detailed review of the long-term results of reconstructive vascular interventions, and it is noteworthy that the contributors to the book are leading specialists in Europe, Australia and the U.S.A. An impressive feature of the book is that each contributor gives a detailed analysis of the reported data to sup-

plement their own observations, with the exception of the discussion of endarterectomies of the aortoiliac segment, although the results presented are comparable with those obtained at bypass. The book opens helpfully, with chapters that deal with the methodology of evaluating long-term results, including descriptions of the principles of surveillance, the systems of data collection and their assessment. Following on from this are discussions on the principles of surveillance after reconstruction, and of the confounding factors which influence the long-term outcome. Detailed attention is paid to familiarising the reader with the non-invasive techniques of imaging, and the basis of pathology such as thrombosis is described in some detail.

The focusing of the book is on descriptions of the surgical interventions that can be employed in the management of arterial disease, encompassing carotid, vertebral, aortoiliac, infrainguinal, renal and aneurysmal surgery in some detail. Many operative procedures are analysed separately, as with the options available in carotid endarterectomy, although with the data provided no preference can be given to any particular technique. Thorough reviews of the ideal material for bypass procedures, with additional discussions on the formation of fistulae and construction of cuffs, are enhanced by the systematic nature in which this topic is presented. The authors also deal with complications the surgeon may encounter, e.g. graft infections. Impressive coverage of the management of thoracoabdominal aneurysms is provided by the authors from Houston Methodist Hospital, U.S.A., where the total number of patients treated exceeds 1500, providing excellent results from a world authority on this problem.

It is a feature of the book that in addition to a single chapter that focuses on endovascular interventions, in which the data presented provides details of several hundred patients, virtually every chapter contains sections commenting on the endovascular management of arterial disease. These are critical reviews, confident to conclude when angioplasty and stenting is the treatment of choice, as in disease of the iliac vessels, yet hesitant to make conclusions when there is a lack of long-term follow-up, as in the endovascular management of aneurysms, despite data covering 600 patients. A few chapters fail to reach the high standard of most, such as the one devoted to the surgery of the visceral branches. However, this is improved by the provision of data allowing elucidation of the results over as long as 20 years.

To conclude, this book has been printed at a time when it will be appreciated. Whilst some accounts are